



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Care Quality

Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building

55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Long Term Care and Assisted Living Providers

FROM: Nancy Grimm, RN, Esq. *NBG*
Director, Office of Health Care Quality

DATE: July 9, 2010

RE: Non-reporting of Environmental Hazards

With the extreme heat that the State of Maryland has experienced over the last week, cooling resource usage, such as air conditioning, has increased. In anticipation of a continued hot summer, facilities may experience a loss of power related to the overuse of these resources. It is expected that all providers have emergency plans to accommodate these disruptions in power.

These plans must include immediate notification to the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) of any heat related situations that may be occurring within your nursing homes or assisted living facilities. These types of issues could include, but are not limited to, the failure of cooling systems, power outages, water outages or other conditions, such as extreme heat, that could impact the health, safety, and/or well being of your residents or the operation of your facility. Should you experience a problem during business hours, you may call 410-402-8015. The number to call after normal business hours is 877-463-3464.

Failure to notify OHCQ promptly may result in sanctions and disciplinary action from the Department.

cc: John Colmers, Secretary
Wendy Kronmiller, Chief of Staff
Fran Phillips, Deputy Secretary of Public Health, DHMH
David Paulson, Director of Communication, DHMH
William Vaughan, Chief Nurse, OHCQ
Dana Kaufmann, LifeSpan
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